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Letter dated 6 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the Manama Declaration on Human Trafficking, which was adopted at the International Conference entitled "Human Trafficking at the Crossroads", held in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain, from 1 to 3 March 2009 (see annex). I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 97.

(*Signed*) Tawfeeq Ahmed **Almansoor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic and English]

Manama Declaration on "Human Trafficking at the Crossroads"

Kingdom of Bahrain, 1-3 March 2009

The participants in the Manama International Conference express their deep appreciation to Her Highness Shaikha Sabeeka Al-Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain, and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their commitment and contribution to the success of our conference, concluding with this Declaration.

We commend the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement for initiating the campaign "End Human Trafficking Now!" in 2006. The Athens Ethical Principles adopted then are even more relevant today, particularly as we are facing crises of unprecedented magnitude. We need to work even harder for the protection, safety and dignity of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, whose very survival is threatened.

We recognize in this moment of crisis that we need to exercise leadership by:

1. Working with the private sector to achieve zero tolerance for human trafficking by adopting the Athens Ethical Principles.

2. Encouraging Governments to implement national strategies to end human trafficking according to the United Nations Protocol.[a]

3. Urging the adoption and implementation of national legal frameworks to include human trafficking as a criminal offence and ensure the protection of victims.

4. Requesting regional entities to develop frameworks to enhance inter-country collaboration to end human trafficking between countries.

5. Urging the General Assembly to adopt a global plan of action against human trafficking.

6. Publicly acknowledging ethically based business practices as a major contribution towards restoring confidence in the private sector.

7. Requesting business partners to include elimination of human trafficking in their corporate social responsibility programmes.

8. Requesting industry associations and international standards organizations to work towards including elimination of human trafficking within their standards.

9. Supporting the creation of helplines and networks of services required for victims of trafficking.

10. Encouraging the media and the cultural and artistic communities to continue their leadership in awareness-raising and disseminating best practices.

[a] The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

11. Strengthening information sharing on progress made;

12. Ensuring the continued support of the international partners involved in the campaign "End Human Trafficking Now!"

13. Reconvening in two years to assess steps taken to implement this declaration.